

Summary Report on 1978 Objectives

A. Crusade for Learning:

Because of a heavy emphasis on staff development, the curriculum for language arts and math concepts has been revamped significantly to meet individual needs of children enrolled.

The staff structure has stabilized itself over the past two years so that the Head Teacher is now able to program to a greater degree through her staff and not for her staff. In light of the fact that the Head Teacher is the only professionally trained teacher on the staff this is a significant accomplishment for the program and also an affirmation of her supervisory ability.

Parent participation and interest in the learning program of their children has increased. There are more parents who use our resources and seek help from our staff concerning their school aged children.

However, the program did not establish the on-going relationship with South 17th Street that we would like. The major reason that this was not accomplished is that our attention in 1978 was focused on fending off crippling changes being proposed by the Division of Youth and Family Services.

The primary focus of DYFS has been to reduce the level of funding to Title XX supported child care programs. Some of these proposals would:

1. Require welfare mothers to get their child care paid by the welfare agency (Title IV-A) despite the fact that most welfare agencies refuse to subsidize child care.
2. Institute centralized eligibility procedures which would mean that parents could not be enrolled for services at the child care site but would have to be determined eligible by a caseworker. This is intended for non-welfare recipients.
3. Change the payment to centers so that they are paid only for the days children attend with less than a 50% reimbursement for standard operating costs.

With a new DYFS director now in office it is hoped that not as much energy will have to be directed to Trenton and more can be devoted to the program for children.

Crusade for Learning Staff:

Julia R. Scott - Center Director
Maria Reimon - Head Teacher
Carmen Acevedo
Gloria Christmas
Sonya Santiago

Carmen Virellia
Hattie Williams
Lloyd Wright
Sarah Yancey

Enrollement

Kindergarten	Total <u>33</u>	<u>14</u>	Spanish Speaking
After School (grades 1 - 3)	Total <u>31</u>	<u>13</u>	Spanish Speaking

Technical Assistance in Energy Conservation.

The Victoria Foundation funding enabled us to continue to use the consulting services of Jack Greenspan in energy conservation work. Because of that involvement we were able to obtain a grant from the N.J. Department of Energy to conduct energy use audits in the Amity Village apartments.

The grant will also pay for training of neighborhood people to conduct the audits and to do follow-up training of residents in energy conservation techniques.

Redevelopment Seed Money

The Foundation funding in this area enabled us to concentrate on preparing a proposal to the office of Neighborhood Development of HUD. The procedure was very exacting and competitive but we were one of the Advanced Neighborhood Organizations selected to provide technical assistance to HUD. This contract will enable the Citizens Union to spend a year working with residents to establish revitalization priorities, organize a neighborhood rehab crew and to do a commercial revitalization study. Our proposal request is for \$164,000 although it will not be contracted at that level.

The Citizens Union will be able to set up a redevelopment component to deal with the needs of the neighborhood as a whole, not just the programs we currently operate. This HUD contract will also help us to gain the recognition with city government that is needed for our neighborhood. It would not have been possible without the seed money support from Victoria Foundation.

Projection for 1979

Crusade for Learning Project

The program will continue to emphasize the development of the whole child. With additional resources from the Community Mental Health Program, session for parents in P.E.T. (Parent Effectiveness Training) will be started.

Community Education Project

The Education Coordinator will be a catalyst and organizer to expand the educational activities in the neighborhood.

Priority project will be:

1. Setting up an after school tutorial program for grades 4 - 12. This will involve finding additional space as well as recruiting and training volunteers.
2. Setting up an adult education program on the week-ends and evenings. The "curriculum" will cover everything from adult basic education to home improvement techniques.

Amity 2A Co-op Conversion

The conversion of the 201 units of Amity 2A to a cooperative is both a complicated legal transaction as well as a large scale educational training task. The Citizens Union has started the job of organizing the residents. At present there are five Committees (Maintenance, Membership, By-Laws, Legal and Finance). Each committee needs its own "mini training program" to fully understand the co-op conversion transaction as well as the demands for operating the co-op once it is converted. Our organization is stressing self reliance because we know that our style of management must be less "protective" and initiating than when Amity Village #1 was our "only child". We must call on both co-ops to provide more leadership in the neighborhood as well.

Redevelopment Support

The Department of Housing and Urban Development has agreed to contract with the Citizens Union to establish a redevelopment office in West Side Park and to provide technical assistance to developing neighborhood organizations.

This contract is most significant because it will help to finance a major effort that here to fore was supported exclusively with private funding. Hopefully, this level of recognition will help in our struggle for recognition by the city administration.

The upcoming HUD contract will not cover all costs, however. The budget proposed to them is for \$164,000. We have already been warned that this cost will be reduced at negotiation time. However this request is intended to supplement the HUD contract, in the reinvestment area and in setting up a redevelopment office.

1979 Budget Request and Rationale

Crusade for Learning Project		21,000
Education Coordinantor		6,000
Co-op Conversion		2,250
Redevelopment Support		10,750
Reinvestment Director (20%)	5,750	
Space Costs	5,000	
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TOTAL REQUEST		40,000

Newark Assn

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